

The insectary proper is constructed much after the plan of an ordinary greenhouse, the walls being made of hollow tile, and the movable sashes in the roof, for ventilating purposes, are enclosed in dormer-like, wooden frames, covered with swiss or a very thin cotton sheeting in order to prevent the introduction or escape of the most minute insects. A door at one end opens into a workroom, while a window in the roof at the other end is provided with a protected, movable sash like those previously mentioned.

Along three sides extends a bench, such as are in use among florists, except that, in this case, it is only about 30 inches in width, to facilitate the close examination of objects at the far side. A portion of the central space is occupied by a reservoir, and originally we had here also a wider bench.

Wooden benches were tried at first, but these soon decayed, while, as is well known, the larvæ of many species remain long in the earth and to disturb them is fatal, so we were obliged to cast about for something more stable to meet these requirements. We are now using, with apparently perfect success, a bench the construction of which is shown in Plate 3. The bottom is of ordinary stone flagging, two inches in thickness, and supported on a framework made of ordinary gas pipe. The upper side of this flagging is deeply grooved, about an inch from the edge, along each side. For the back of the bench ordinary roofing slate is used, the lower edges being fitted into the groove in the stone and embedded in cement, while the upper edges are held in place by a cap of galvanized iron running along the entire length. For the front a heavy galvanized sheet iron is used, the lower edge, as with the slate, fitting into the front groove in the flagging, while the upper is drawn over and turned under the smaller, horizontal gas pipe, the latter being held in place by a T joint, all of which is shown in the background of Plate 3. Before filling the benches, the inside of this galvanized iron front is coated with asphalt.

The wider, central bench was discarded altogether and the space enclosed by a low brick wall plastered with cement. This enclosed space is filled with earth and will accommodate shrubs and even small trees.

The finished benches, with the whole apartment in actual service, are shown in Plate 4. Formerly we placed soil in the breeding cages, and grew, or tried to grow, the food plants of whatever insects we